Management Plan

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Ivanhoe Lake Provincial Park Management Plan

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Ivanhoe Provincial Park is located on Highway 101, 11 kilometres southwest of Foleyet and 114 kilometres southwest of Timmins (Figure 1). Development of the park began in 1957 and it was officially opened to the public in 1960.

The landscape of this 1,567 hectare park is dominated by several features related to past glaciation: kames, kettle lakes and most notably, a prominent esker system which is one of the most spectacular and most easily accessed in the provincial parks system. Most of the park is covered by an upland forest. More poorly drained lowland sites also occur.

Ivanhoe provides a variety of recreational opportunities including camping, picnicking, boating, fishing and swimming. It offers 149 campsites (47 with electrical hookups), a group campground, a day use area which includes one of the finest beaches in the area, boat launching ramps and walking trails (Figure 2). The park is a popular vacation destination and receives considerable weekend use from the Timmins area.

2.0 PARK POLICIES

2.1 Classification

Ivanhoe Lake Provincial Park is classified as a Natural Environment class park in recognition of its significant geomorphological and ecological features, and its capacity to provide a diverse range of recreational opportunities in an attractive natural setting.

2.2 Goal

To maintain and manage outstanding recreational landscapes with representative natural features and historical resources to provide high quality recreational and educational experiences.

2.3 Objectives

2.3.1 Protection

To maintain and manage the environment of the park to protect its natural, cultural and recreational values.

Six nature reserve zones will be designated to protect significant natural features and appropriate management policies will be formulated to protect the natural attributes of the park.

2.3.2 Recreation

To provide day use opportunities in an area of outstanding outdoor recreation potential associated with the natural environment.

To provide facility-based camping opportunities in a natural environment and in associated areas of outstanding recreational potential.

The park will provide an annual supply of 34,000 camper nights and 45,000 day use opportunities. Activities will include pastimes such as picnicking, swimming, fishing, boating and hiking.

2.3.3 Heritage Appreciation

To provide opportunities for exploration and appreciation of the park's natural environment through interpretation and education based on the character and significance of Ivanhoe Lake and environs.

Three self-guiding interpretive trails will be offered to provide unstructured opportunities for visitors to appreciate the natural features of the park. Information concerning significant natural features will also be provided through the visitor services program by means such as leaflets and exhibits.

2.3.4 Tourism

To provide Ontario residents and out-of-province visitors with opportunities to discover and experience the distinctive environment of the park and the surrounding area.

Ivanhoe Lake will provide day use and camping opportunities to travellers. The marketing plan will be updated as required in an effort to encourage increased use of the park.

2.4 Zoning

Three types of zones will be designated to assist in the management of the park: six nature reserve zones, one natural environment zone, and two development zones (Figure 3).

2.4.1 Nature Reserve Zones

These zones have been designated to identify and protect significant natural features for their intrinsic interpretive and scientific values.

NR1 Beach Escarpment (4.9 hectares) contains a relict shoreline which is representative of post glacial levels of Ivanhoe Lake.

NR2 Lakeshore Esker (27.6 hectares) is a provincially significant glacial landform with a small kettle basin peatland with excellent potential for interpretation.

NR3 North Shore Peninsula (62.3 hectares) contains several panne communities which are rarely found in northern Ontario since they require lime rich environments seldom found on the Canadian Shield. A diversity of other communities is also represented.

NR4 Narrows Shoreline Complex (43.7 hectares) contains good examples of shoreline marshes.

NR5 Wild Rice Complex (28.3 hectares) consists of a wild rice community which has become established within a stand of bullrushes.

NR6 Upland Forest (8.6 hectares) features a representative example of a dry upland forest community which has numerous remnant red and white pine plus some lowland spruce - fir stands.

2.4.2 Natural Environment Zone

One natural environment zone, NE 1 (1176.8 hectares) has been established. Because of relatively vulnerable slope, soil, and vegetation conditions, this area can support only minimum development and low intensity recreational activities such as hiking.

Contained within the zone are most of the esker system, kame and kettle features, and sand flats.

2.4.3. Development Zone

Two development zones have been designated to include all facility development within the park. Within these zones most of the intensive recreational activity will occur.

D 1 (233.4 hectares)

This zone contains the camping and day use areas, group campgrounds and service, maintenance and administrative facilities. Provisions for handicapped visitors including ramps, toilets and pathways will be maintained.

All maintenance and development activity, particularly in the day use area, should be carried out/monitored with extreme care as described in background resource inventories. Additional development in the day use should not take place if it threatens the eolian beach dunes.

D 2 (3.6 hectares)

This zone on lake #1 is for walk-in campsite development only. Hazardous trees will be removed from the vicinity of facilities.

3.0 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The park will be managed in accordance with the general planning and management policies for natural environment class provincial parks. Specific direction, where needed to meet requirements particular to Ivanhoe Lake, is provided below.

Although the policies are presented in separate categories, all planning and management will recognize that the components are inter-related and that an integrated approach will be required in order for the park to achieve its objectives.

3.1 Water

Water quality in bathing areas will be monitored by the Ministry in accordance with approved testing procedures to ensure human health and safety.

The 18 kettle lakes within the park are sensitive to pollutants due to their small size and enclosed nature. Water quality will be maintained and will be monitored on an annual basis. Gasoline powered motors will not be permitted on these lakes but the use of electric motors will be allowed on Boyce Lake and Saw Lake.

Regular water sampling will occur from Saw Lake, the park's source of drinking water. Samples will be sent to the Ontario Ministry of Health for analysis. Swimming will not be permitted in Saw Lake.

The water level of Ivanhoe Lake will be maintained at roughly 99.5 tenths (between 99.4 and 99.6) above the foundation of the sluice except in the spring when level variations will be permitted to provide for a controlled spring discharge. Similarly, during flash storms, temporary variations will be permitted.

3.2 Vegetation

Vegetation in the park will be managed to fulfill protection and recreation objectives. The removal of trees will be permitted only where there is a threat to human safety and property or where it is necessary in order to meet the park's protection and recreation objectives.

The Ministry of Natural Resources is responsible for fire control and a fire pump unit is provided in the park to enable park staff to react to any fire outbreak. Wild fires in all zones will be suppressed.

Aerial spraying for the release of vegetation is prohibited. Pathogen spraying will not be permitted unless the park is seriously threatened by insects or disease. At such time, spraying will follow guidelines established by the Ministries of Natural Resources and the Environment.

Non-native plants will not be introduced.

Berry picking and limited personal consumption of edible wild plants other than those found in nature reserve zones will be permitted. Commercial harvesting will not be permitted.

3.3 Fisheries

Sport fishing, (for a variety of species) will be encouraged. A fisheries management plan, consistent with the broader District Plan will be prepared to direct the provision of a quality fishery for park visitors. The plan will provide for: the stocking of interior lakes with brook trout; a creel census to ascertain the success of the stocking program; reclamation of interior lakes as required. The water level of Ivanhoe Lake will be controlled to encourage fisheries production.

3.4 Wildlife

Hunting is not permitted.

Trapping will be permitted for management purposes only and that portion of the existing trapline in the southern tip of the park will be phased out at the earliest opportunity. That licenced trapper will be given the first opportunity to undertake any management trapping required in the park.

Exotic species will not be introduced into the park.

3.5 Landforms

All pedestrian traffic on the Lakeshore Esker will be prohibited until an acceptable protective structure is built. A plan to establish the feasibility and design of the stairway will be developed.

The logging road along the esker within the park will be relocated outside the park, and the original road will be rehabilitated to a walking trail. A service road to the lookout will be maintained.

4.0 CLIENT SERVICES

4.1 Visitor Services

A seasonal format for the visitor services program will be adopted in accordance with the Northern Region Visitor Services Plan (1978). This will ensure staff continuity and contribute to visitor interest, satisfaction and increased lengths of stay.

4.1.1 Communications

Communication will be provided by all park staff, particularly those working at the gatehouse, and by park publications and exhibits. Visitor reaction to various aspects of the visitor services program will be actively monitored by park staff.

4.1.2 Interpretation

The interpretive programme will seek to engender a greater understanding and appreciation of the natural environment of the park, and will focus on the following themes: continental glaciation will be the major theme; the minor themes will include botanical features including the orchid community, panne sites, and the floating bog.

4.1.3 Outdoor Recreation

The aim of the recreation component of the program at Ivanhoe Lake is to provide the best information about recreational opportunities in the park and surrounding local area. Programs devoted to boating skills, water safety and other activities may be provided on a seasonal basis.

4.1.4 Outdoor Education

Groups of individuals will be encouraged to use the park resources for outdoor education purposes which are compatible with park policy, and protection guidelines. Information about park resources will be made available to school and other groups interested in outdoor education.

4.2 Marketing

A marketing plan has been developed for the park, primarily to encourage increased visitation. With major improvements to Highway 101 between Timmins and Foleyet, the park now provides the Timmins market area with access to one of the best public beach/pineland camping areas in northeastern Ontario. Marketing strategies will highlight these facts and features.

The marketing plan stresses Ivanhoe Lake Provincial Park's role in supporting adjacent private tourist businesses through co-operative endeavours.

4.3 Emergency Services

A park emergency plan provides park staff with instructions for emergency situations. This plan will be reviewed yearly and updated as required.

4.4 Park Enforcement

Guidelines for the enforcement programme at Ivanhoe Lake Provincial Park will contain information regarding potential enforcement problems, and staff training.

5.0 DEVELOPMENT

Development will proceed in accordance with Figure 4 and the following guidelines. In all instances detailed site plans will be completed and approved in advance of new development or the rehabilitation of exiting facilities. Development projects will be phased according to the Implementation Strategy as need and funding permits. The requirements of The Environmental Assessment Act will be adhered to.

5.1 Camping

Campground expansion at the south end of the park will take place as demand dictates and funding permits.

Present use is less than 50% of developed capacity. However, the park has a total development potential for approximately 235 additional sites. There is also an area of small lakes in the south end of the park that could be developed for walk-in campsites to give park visitors a semi-wilderness recreational experience.

5.2 Trails

In accordance with the current Forest Management Agreement, the existing Pineland Timber Company logging access road, located along the main lobe of the esker, will be relocated outside the park to the east through an area that has been logged recently. The former road will be rehabilitated to create a trail to the lookout tower and become a part of a park hiking trail system. Another section may be used to provide access to the proposed interior walk-in campsites on Lake #1 (Figure 4).

5.3 Administration and Operations Facilities

In order to maintain the desired level of service and improve the operation of the park, a new maintenance complex is required. It would include a new maintenance building, storage area, gas and oil storage facilities and staff quarters. Support facilities are required.

5.4 Access and Circulation

The present entrance road is satisfactory but will require resurfacing within 5 years. The Ministry of Transportation and Communications has been requested to take over the access road to the park entrance, a distance of 2 miles. The main park interior road will be realigned at the park office to provide for two-way traffic and will serve as the main road to the south end of the park. This will reduce traffic concentration on the present lakeshore campground road, which will be used as a one-way system for access to the camping area. The Saw Lake road (3.2 kilometres) requires upgrading and paving.

5.5 Visitor Services Facilities

Additional requirements include a multi-purpose recreation building which will be constructed to provide space for exhibits and recreational activities. This building may also be used as a warming shelter for winter visitors.

5.6 Junior Ranger Camp

The camp now occupies an area adjacent to the best beach in the park, which is the location proposed for the multi-purpose recreation building. Alternative sites for the Junior Ranger camp have been selected outside the park, and it will be relocated to one of these.

5.7 Winter Facilities

Winter use presently consists of ice fishing, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing. Present use is low and there is no current demand for facilities. If, however, a multi-purpose building is constructed it could be used by cross-country skiers. No official winter program is planned for the park, but cross-country skiing and snowmobiling will be encouraged. Snowmobiling will be restricted to park roads.

6.0 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The recommended programs will be implemented with formal approval of the management plan. The number of projects to be completed or partially completed will be based upon the availability and allocation of each year's capital funding.

The management plan will be reviewed not less than every 10 years following its approval and as the need arises. Data collection and evironmental quality monitoring will be conducted regularly.

PHASE I: Superintendent's quarters.

PHASE II: Maintenance complex
- maintenance building (30' x 48')
- storage area
- gas and oil storage
- parking area (5 vehicles)
- 0.1 km underground power line and transformer
- upgrade 0.5 km service road

PHASE III: Visitor Services Centre

PHASE IV: Upgrade Park Facilities
- install wash basins in privies
- install showers in comfort stations
- upgrade water system, larger pumps with dual control panel
- pave all interior roads and parking lots
- improve dry beach
- realign roads and entrance area to provide for parking
- improve communications in the park; for example install a radio at the park office

PHASE V: Staff Quarters
- quarters for 10 park staff if required will be located in the park or nearby.

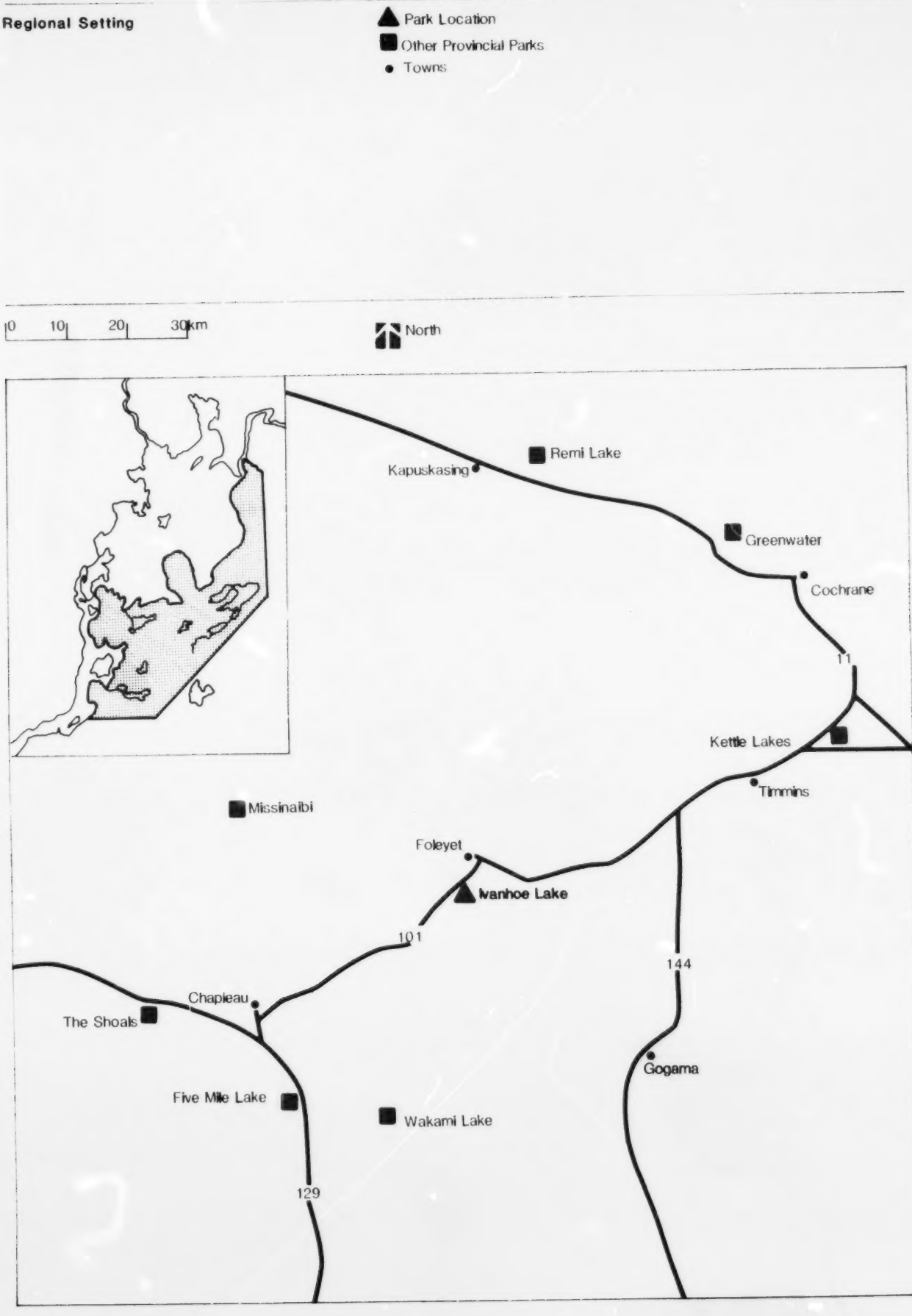
PHASE VI: Esker rehabilitation
- relocate the hydro line to improve the view from the lookout tower and to be consistent with provincial parks nature reserve policy.

PHASE VII: Interior Campsites
- construct 4 small walk-in campgrounds
- construct a 10 km hiking trail in the south end of the park.

PHASE VIII: Internal Roads
- upgrade Saw Lake road to provide for two-way traffic to a new camping and beach area at the former junior ranger camp.

Figure 1

Regional Setting



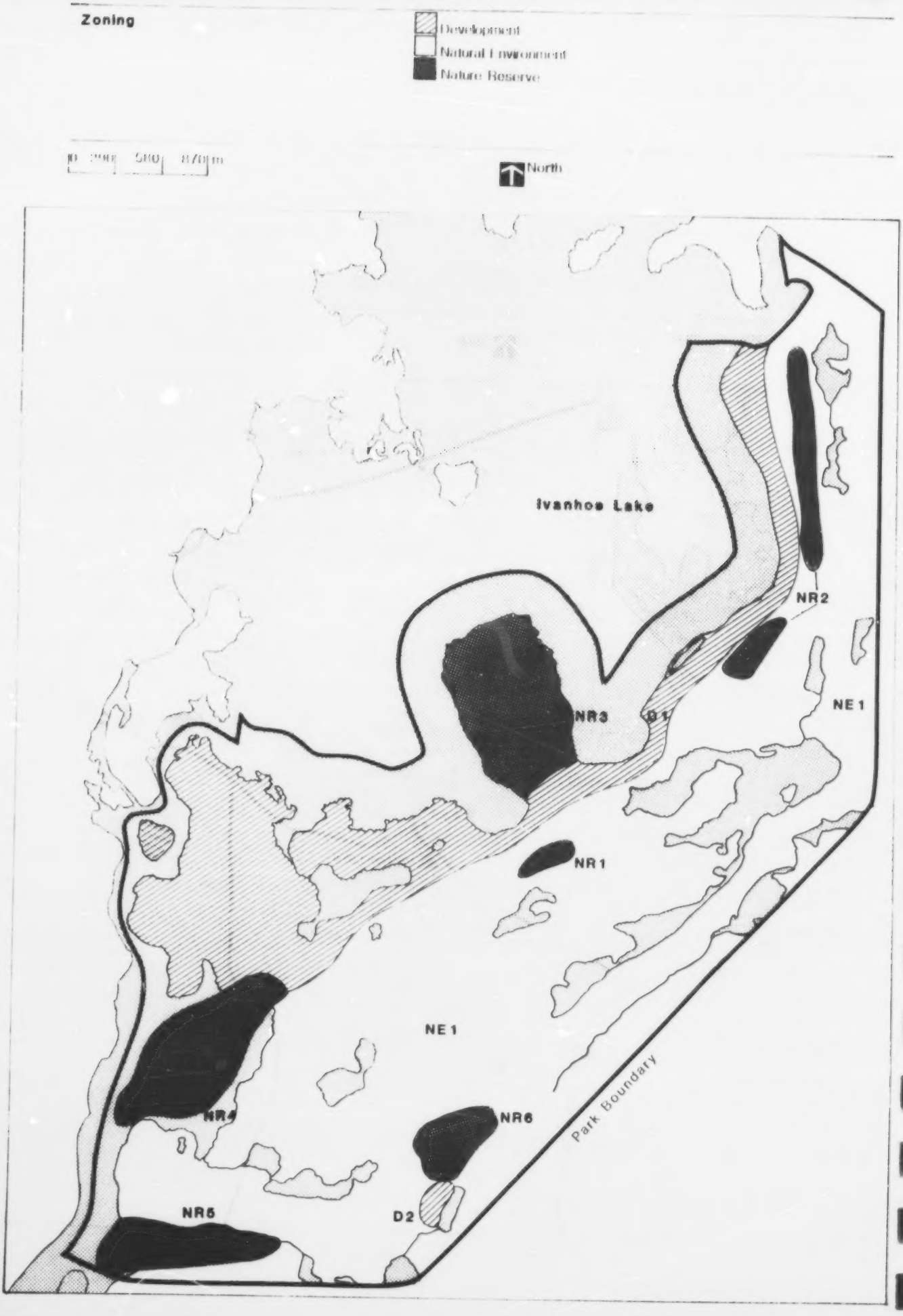

Zoning
Development
Natural Environment
Nature Reserve
North
Ivanhoe Lake
NR2
NR3
D1
NE1
NR1
NE1
NR4
NR6
Park Boundary
NR5
D2

Figure 2

Existing Development

1 Park Office
2 Trailer Dumping
3 Firewood
4 Parking
5 Comfort Station
6 Boat Launch
7 Campground
8 Picnic Area
9 Beach
10 Lookout Tower
11 Junior Ranger Camp
12 Maintenance Building

0 290 580 870 m

North

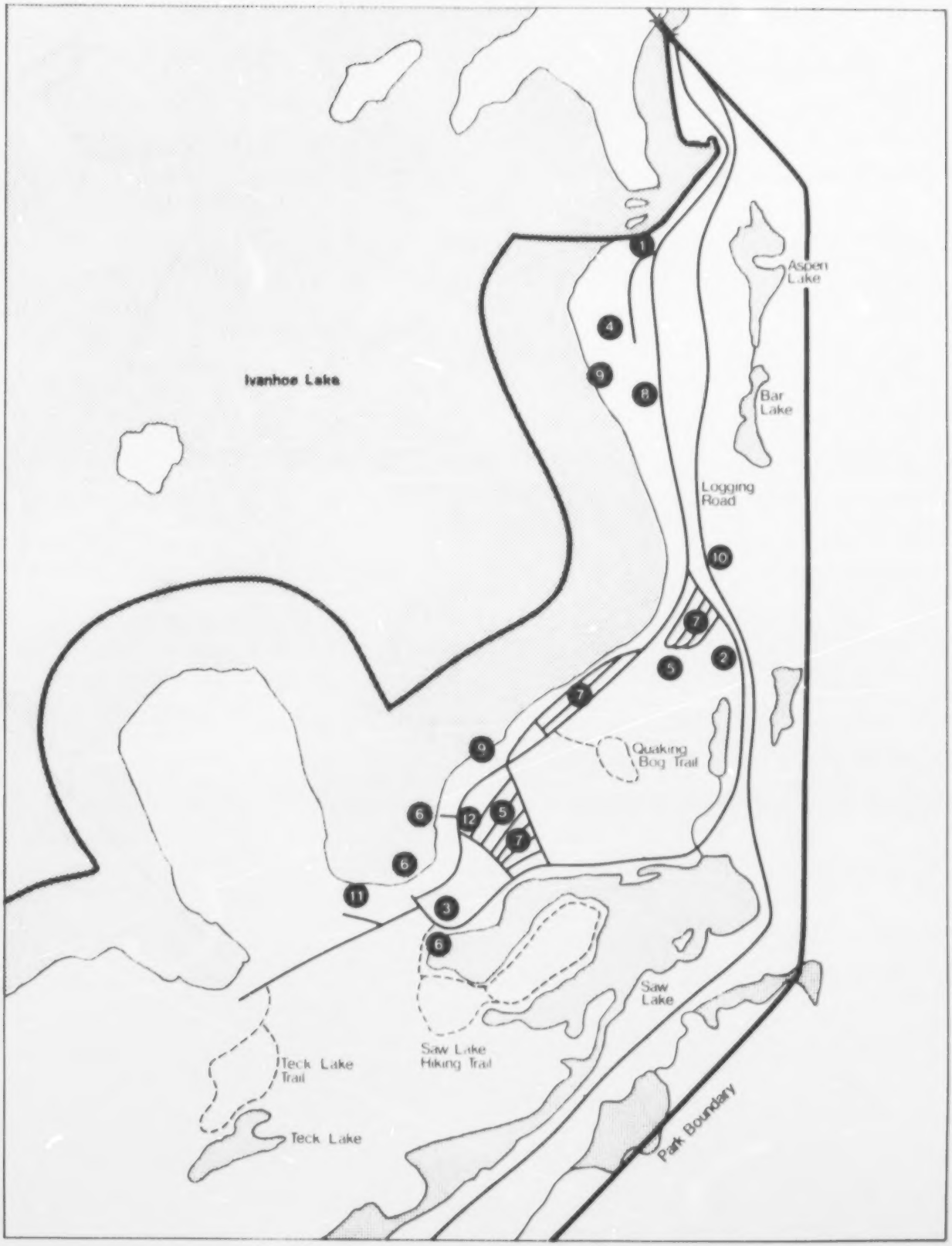


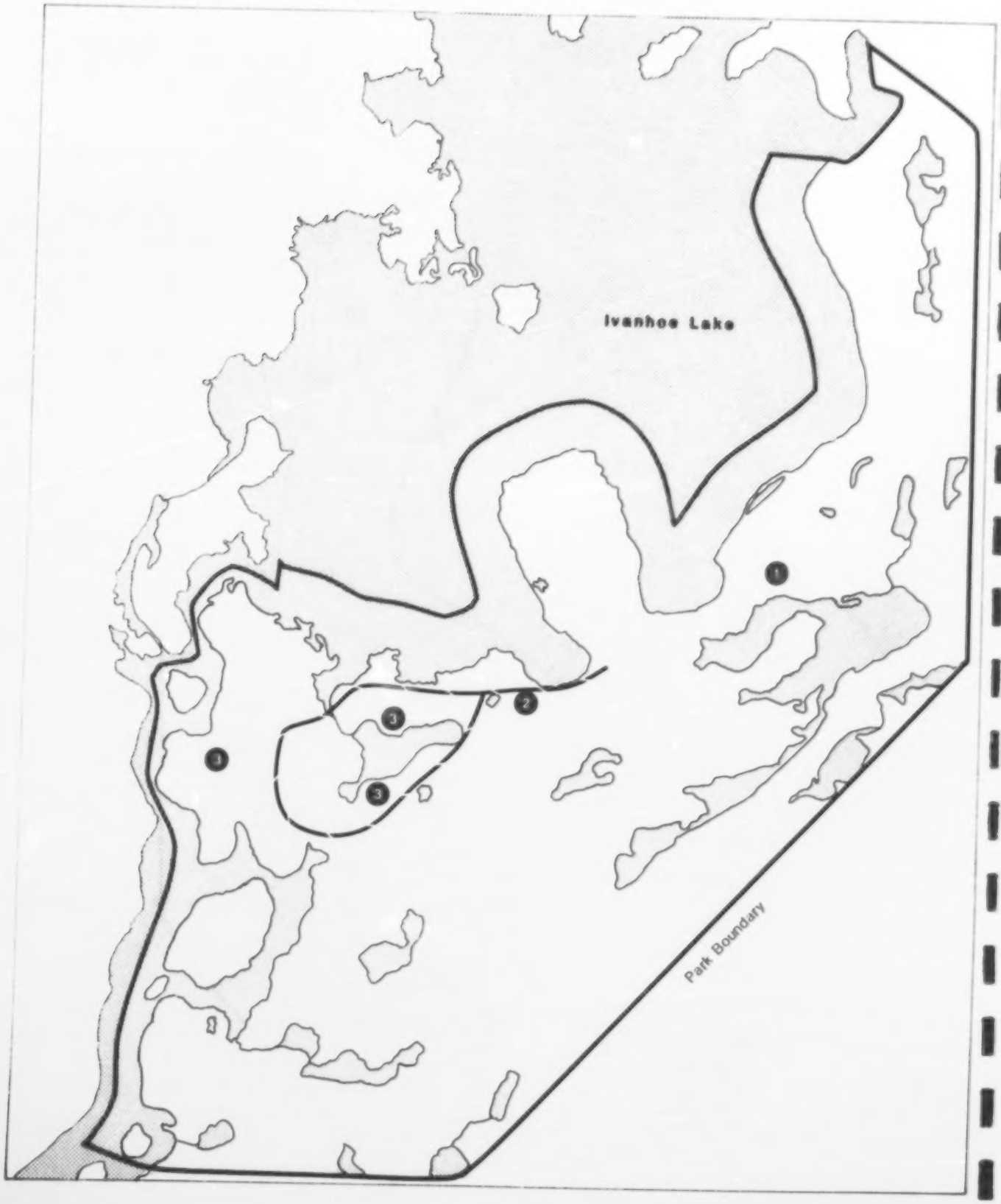
Figure 4

Proposed Development

1 Maintenance/Staff Quarters
2 Road
3 Campground

0 290 580 870m

North



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